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REMARKS

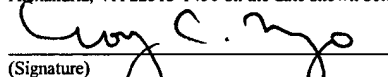
Technology Center 2600

Claims 39 and 51 are herein amended to cure the inadvertent omission of the word "in" so that "each node on the path R is in a member of the sequence cx." Previously in the claims, a "member" of the sequence cx is defined to be a "node set." One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that "each node" is not a "node set" but rather a "member of a node set," and understand the logical meaning of the claims as presented to include the word "in" so that the amendment does not alter the claims. Accordingly the amendment is "merely cosmetic" and does not change the claim scope in any manner. Accordingly, the amendment is truly cosmetic and does not narrow the patent's scope or raise an estoppel.

CONCLUSION

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:


  
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May 22, 2003  
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Respectfully submitted,

  
Ken J. Koestner  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 33,004